

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214-US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for updating code, the method comprising:
providing an update to a plurality of versions of a
program, wherein the program is updated by an installer
program and a plurality of versions of the installer
program exist;
- 10 determining whether a version of the installer
program is incorrect with respect to the update;
responsive to the version of the installer program
being incorrect, updating the installer program from
files in the update; and
- 15 installing the update in the program with the
updated installer program.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a
determination that the version of the installer is older
20 than the update indicates that the version of the
installer program is incorrect.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a
determination that the version of the installer is more
25 recent than the update indicates that the version of the
installer program is incorrect.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
version of the installer program is determined from a
30 single one of a plurality of files contained within the
installer program.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the updating step comprises:

- extracting installer files from the installer program into a directory;
- overwriting selected files from the installer program with a corresponding updated file extracted from the update; and
- packaging the updated files and remaining installer files into an updated installer program.

6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the packaging step comprises compressing the updated files and remaining installer files to produce an updated installer program.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the installer program comprises an install toolkit and the update comprises an update to the install toolkit.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the installer program and the update are written in an object-oriented programming language.

25 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the installer program comprises a java install toolkit and the update comprises an update to the java install toolkit.

30 10. A computer program product in a computer readable
media for use in a data processing system for updating

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214 US1

code, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for providing an update to a plurality of versions of a program, wherein the program is updated by an installer program and a plurality of versions of the installer program exist;

second instructions for determining whether a version of the installer program is incorrect with respect to the update;

third instructions, responsive to the version of the installer program being incorrect, for updating the installer program from files in the update; and

fourth instructions for installing the update in the program with the updated installer program.

11. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein a determination that the version of the installer is older than the update indicates that the version of the installer program is incorrect.

12. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein a determination that the version of the installer is more recent than the update indicates that the version of the installer program is incorrect.

13. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the version of the installer program is determined from a single one of a plurality of files contained within the installer program.

14. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the third instructions comprise:

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    fifth instructions for extracting installer files
from the installer program into a directory;

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seventh instructions for packaging the updated files and remaining installer files into an updated installer program.

15 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 10,
wherein the installer program comprises an install
toolkit and the update comprises an update to the install
toolkit.

18. The computer program product as recited in claim 10,
25 wherein the installer program comprises a java install
toolkit and the update comprises an update to the java
install toolkit.

19. A system for updating code, the system comprising:
30 first means for providing an update to a plurality
of versions of a program, wherein the program is updated

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214-US1

by an installer program and a plurality of versions of the installer program exist;

second means for determining whether a version of the installer program is incorrect with respect to the
5 update;

third means, responsive to the version of the installer program being incorrect, for updating the installer program from files in the update; and

fourth means for installing the update in the
10 program with the updated installer program.

20. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein a determination that the version of the installer is older than the update indicates that the version of the
15 installer program is incorrect.

21. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein a determination that the version of the installer is more recent than the update indicates that the version of the
20 installer program is incorrect.

22. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the version of the installer program is determined from a single one of a plurality of files contained within the
25 installer program.

23. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the third means comprise:

fifth means for extracting installer files from the
30 installer program into a directory;

sixth means for overwriting selected files from the

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Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214-US1

installer program with a corresponding updated file
extracted from the update; and

5 seventh means for packaging the updated files and
remaining installer files into an updated installer
program.

24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the
seventh means comprise compressing the updated files and
remaining installer files to produce an updated installer
10 program.

25. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the
installer program comprises an install toolkit and the
update comprises an update to the install toolkit.
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26. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the
installer program and the update are written in an
object-oriented programming language.

20 27. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the
installer program comprises a java install toolkit and
the update comprises an update to the java install
toolkit.

25 28. A method in a data processing system for updating
code, the method comprising:

receiving an update file for a program, wherein the
update file includes an installer to update the program
in which a plurality of versions of the installer exist;
30 determining whether the installer is a newer version
of an existing installer for the program;

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214-US1

responsive to the installer being a new version of the existing installer, updating the existing installer to form an updated installer; and

installing code in the update file in the program
5 using the updated installer.

29. The method as recited in claim 28, wherein the updating step comprises extracting files from the updated installer, overwriting corresponding older files
10 extracted from the existing installer to form updated files, and repackaging the updated files to form the updated installer.

30. The method as recited in claim 28, wherein the
15 update file, the program, the installer, the existing installer, and the update installer comprise object-oriented code.

31. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the
20 object-oriented code is java.

32. A computer program product in computer readable media for use in a data processing system for updating code, the computer program product comprising:
25 first instructions for receiving an update file for a program, wherein the update file includes an installer to update the program in which a plurality of versions of the installer exist;
second instructions for determining whether the
30 installer is a newer version of an existing installer for the program;

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214-US1

third instructions, responsive to the installer being a new version of the existing installer, for updating the existing installer to form an updated installer; and

5 fourth instructions for installing code in the update file in the program using the updated installer.

33. The computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the third instructions comprise extracting files
10 from the updated installer, overwriting corresponding older files extracted from the existing installer to form updated files, and repackaging the updated files to form the updated installer.

34. The computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the update file, the program, the installer, the
15 existing installer, and the update installer comprise object-oriented code.

35. The computer program product as recited in claim 34, wherein the object-oriented code is java.
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36. A system for updating code, the system comprising:
first means for receiving an update file for a
25 program, wherein the update file includes an installer to update the program in which a plurality of versions of the installer exist;

second means for determining whether the installer is a newer version of an existing installer for the
30 program;

third means, responsive to the installer being a new

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0214-US1

version of the existing installer, for updating the existing installer to form an updated installer; and

fourth means for installing code in the update file in the program using the updated installer.

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37. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein the third means comprise extracting files from the updated installer, overwriting corresponding older files extracted from the existing installer to form updated files, and repackaging the updated files to form the updated installer.

38. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein the update file, the program, the installer, the existing installer, and the update installer comprise object-oriented code.

39. The system as recited in claim 38, wherein the object-oriented code is java.

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